

Form Letter C

From: "Errol Baade" <scecet@bwn.net>
To: <ALPDSEISComments@uc.usbr.gov>
Date: 2/9/00 7:11PM
Subject: Regarding Animas La Plata

February 8, 2000

>Pat Schumacher

>Bureau of Reclamation

>835 E. 2nd Ave

>Durango, CO 81301

>Re: ANIMAS-LA PLATA PROJECT

>Dear Mr. Schumacher:

>This project will cause a myriad of undesirable environmental consequences.

>A biological assessment prepared for the Bureau found that the water

>depletions are likely to threaten the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback

>sucker and adversely modify critical habitat in the San Juan River.

>Furthermore, the assessment raises serious concerns about heavy metal

>bioaccumulation in the food chain of bald eagles. The high content of

>selenium and mercury in the reservoir water may be passed on to the eagles

>from the fish in their food supply. Construction of the project will also

>disturb the nesting eagles, despite mitigation measures.

>

>Ridges Basin is currently a State Wildlife Area and is used by up to 2,000

>elk as a prime migration corridor. It is also frequented by around 1,500

>resident and migrating mule deer. The project will block their migration

>corridor and prevent the deer and elk from moving between summer and winter

>ranges. The Bureau projects that the animals will be forced to cross

>highways and fenced farmland to achieve their migration.

>

>In addition to the harm to wildlife, the project will result in numerous

>other undesirable impacts. For one, the pumping station will consume

>approximately as much power as the downtown districts of the City of
Durango

>currently use. Lower river flows will eliminate over 4,000 kayaking and

>rafting user days. Perhaps worst of all, there is no current need for the

>water; the projected future uses include the construction of two power

>plants, two or three golf courses, a casino-resort, and a dude ranch.

>

>All this is going to cost the US and Colorado taxpayers nearly 300 MILLION

>DOLLARS, plus annual operating costs of several million dollars. Although

>the ALP project will settle Ute Indian water rights claims, there are

>better

>ways to achieve a settlement with the Ute tribes. A local citizens group

>has

>shown that existing water rights can be purchased and transferred to the

>tribes with a lower cost to the government and without a dam!

>

>PLEASE CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO THE STRUCTURAL RESERVOIR AT RIDGES BASIN.

>THEY SHOULD FURTHER STUDY AND RECOMMEND ALTERNATIVE #6, THE ANIMAS RIVER

>CITIZEN'S CONCEPTUAL ALTERNATIVE.

>Please call me if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and help

>in this matter.

>Sincerely,

>

>Errol E. Baade

This letter is nearly identical to Comment Letter IN87. Please refer to the responses made to the original comment letter.

FORM LETTER C

C11

From: "Ramsay Thomas" <ramsayt@rmi.net>
To: <ALPDSEISComments@uc.usbr.gov>
Date: 2/25/00 9:03AM
Subject: <no subject>

This letter is nearly identical to Comment Letter IN87. Please refer to the responses made to the original comment letter.

February 8, 2000
Pat Schumacher
Bureau of Reclamation
835 E. 2nd Ave
Durango, CO 81301
Re: ANIMAS-LA PLATA PROJECT

Dear Mr. Schumacher:

This project will cause a myriad of undesirable environmental consequences. A biological assessment prepared for the Bureau found that the water depletions are likely to threaten the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker and adversely modify critical habitat in the San Juan River. Furthermore, the assessment raises serious concerns about heavy metal bioaccumulation in the food chain of bald eagles. The high content of selenium and mercury in the reservoir water may be passed on to the eagles from the fish in their food supply. Construction of the project will also disturb the nesting eagles, despite mitigation measures.

Ridges Basin is currently a State Wildlife Area and is used by up to 2,000 elk as a prime migration corridor. It is also frequented by around 1,500 resident and migrating mule deer. The project will block their migration corridor and prevent the deer and elk from moving between summer and winter ranges. The Bureau projects that the animals will be forced to cross highways and fenced farmland to achieve their migration.

In addition to the harm to wildlife, the project will result in numerous other undesirable impacts. For one, the pumping station will consume approximately as much power as the downtown districts of the City of Durango currently use. Lower river flows will eliminate over 4,000 kayaking and rafting user days. Perhaps worst of all, there is no current need for the water; the projected future uses include the construction of two power plants, two or three golf courses, a casino-resort, and a dude ranch.

All this is going to cost the US and Colorado taxpayers nearly 300 MILLION DOLLARS, plus annual operating costs of several million dollars. Although the ALP project will settle Ute Indian water rights claims, there are better ways to achieve a settlement with the Ute tribes. A local citizens group has shown that existing water rights can be purchased and transferred to the tribes with a lower cost to the government and without a dam!

PLEASE CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO THE STRUCTURAL RESERVOIR AT RIDGES BASIN. THEY SHOULD FURTHER STUDY AND RECOMMEND ALTERNATIVE #6, THE ANIMAS RIVER CITIZEN'S CONCEPTUAL ALTERNATIVE.

Sincerely,

Ramsay Thomas

FORM LETTER C

C10

From: Julie Oldham <julieo@climbing.com>
To: <ALPDSEISComments@uc.usbr.gov>
Date: 2/11/00 9:46AM
Subject: Please don't do this!

To Pat Schumacher,

- > The project will cause a myriad of undesirable environmental consequences.
- > A biological assessment prepared for the Bureau found that the water
- > depletions are likely to threaten the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback
- > sucker and adversely modify critical habitat in the San Juan River.
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Thank you!
Julie Oldham

Climbing Magazine

Julie Oldham
Director of Advertising

0326 Hwy 133 Suite 190
Carbondale, CO 81623
USA

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FORM LETTER C

C1

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